

PRESS RELEASE

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Lanai High and Elementary School to Receive State Funds

Honolulu. With the passage of the legislative budget bill, House Bill 1900 CD 1, Lanai High and Elementary should expect to receive a much-needed influx of funds that will cover both improvement and operational expenses.

Regarding the school's expansion project, \$616,000 has been appropriated to subsidize the design of a new classroom building. The money would also be used for ground and site improvement, and new equipment purchases.

Lanai High and Elementary suffered a recent financial setback with the introduction of the weighted student formula (WSF) in 2004, a new method of school funding that bases allocations on individual student characteristics. Consequently, the school, with a projected enrollment of 607 students, would have suffered an estimated \$37,656 in budget cuts.

To assist schools facing similar losses in their adjustment to the WSF, the Legislature has provided for transitional dollars that will aid the Department of Education in effectively implementing the funding reform. In addition to the capital improvement money earmarked in House Bill 1900 CD 1, Lanai High and Elementary will also receive \$147,680 to ease its transition to the weighted student formula. The appropriation results in a net gain of \$110,024 for the school.

Representative Mele Carroll (D- Paia, Haiku, Keanae, Hana, Lanai, Molokai, Kalaupapa, Kahoolawe) is pleased with the decision. "My rural areas were hit hard by the funding reform under the weighted student formula," she says. "These are communities that have few educational alternatives beyond the local public school, so a budget cut is felt especially hard and greatly impacts the quality of education the Lanai, Molokai, and East Maui keiki receive."

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